

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

173

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

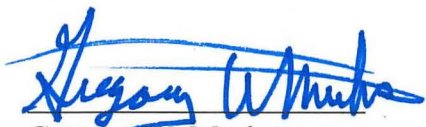
We were disappointed to learn of the Federal Communications Commission's February 3<sup>rd</sup> decision to revoke the Licensed Broadband Providers (LBP) designations for nine providers. As you well know, under the Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications program, LBPs offer discounts for wireline and wireless services to eligible, low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on tribal lands. Low-income consumers, who utilize the Lifeline program, will certainly suffer as a result of this order. Accordingly, we encourage you to reconsider your order immediately.

On your first day as FCC Chairman, you both recognized and vowed to close the digital divide, stating your intention to "bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans." We have serious concerns that the February 3<sup>rd</sup> order runs counter to that effort and jeopardizes the FCC's ability to close the digital divide.

To understand the negative impact this will have on poor consumers, one need not look further than the District of Columbia, and the students who can do their homework. In total, roughly 12 million low-income Americans rely on Lifeline Program for telephone and internet access. That includes individuals who are on the Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs, individuals receiving Federal Public Housing Assistance, families whose income are at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and many others who need our help to finish their book report, get ahead, or simply call their loved ones.

In summary, we implore the FCC to reconsider its decision to restrict access to companies who provide wireline and wireless services to low-income consumers through the Lifeline Program. The order runs contrary to the program's original spirit of helping connect some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. We should expand, not limit, access to the Lifeline Program. The FCC has the capability to improve the program without revoking designations and harming consumers. We encourage you to keep your original promise, and that of the Lifeline Program, and utilize the FCC's power to help bridge and eventually close the digital divide in America.

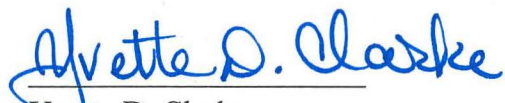
Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



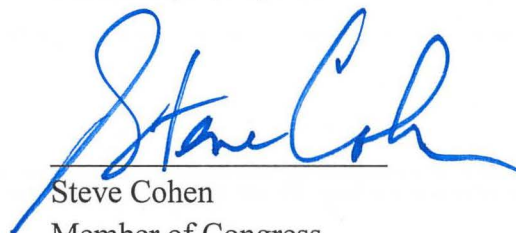
Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



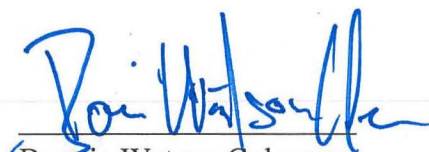
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



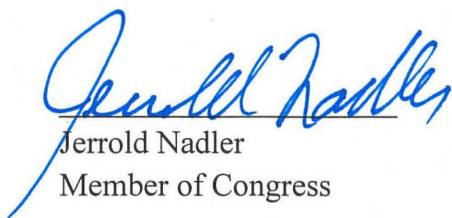
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

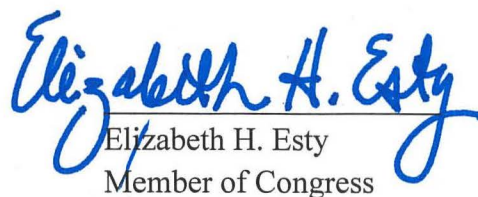


Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



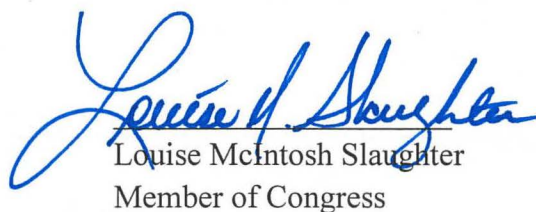
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

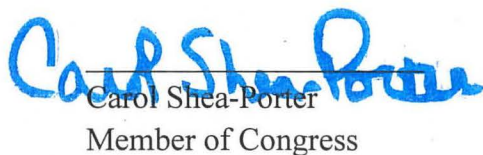
  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

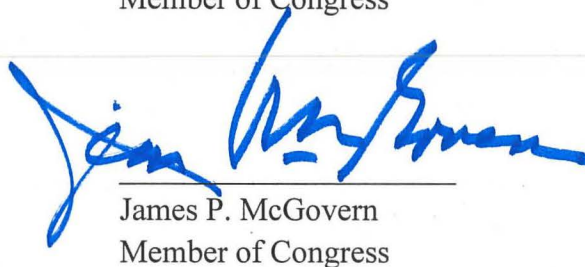
  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

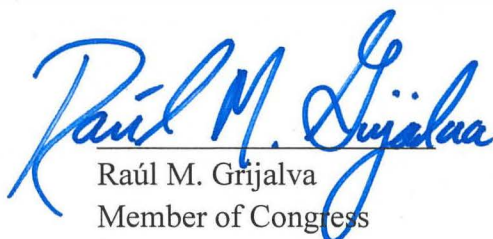
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

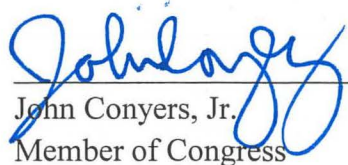
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

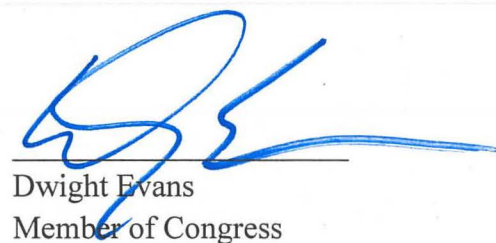
  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

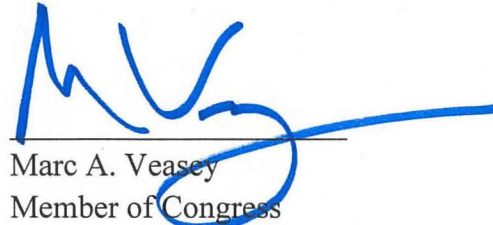
  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress




  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

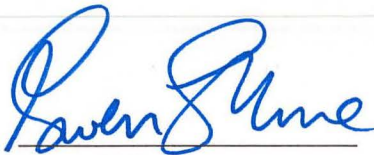
  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

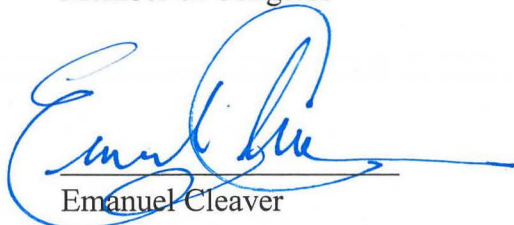
  
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

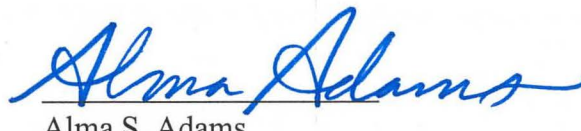
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress


  
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

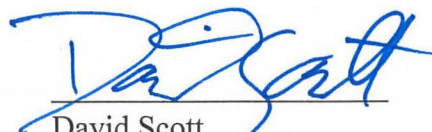
  
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
David Scott  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Mark Takano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1507 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

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*Second*, eight of the nine affected carriers had no Lifeline customers.

*Third*, the prior Commission disregarded the well-established process for approving applications like these. The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a petition for reconsideration pointing out that several of the providers never complied with their obligation under our rules to coordinate their applications with Tribes. These Tribal representatives thus requested that the designations be reversed. Moreover, two providers' designations were improperly granted prior to the public comment deadline for filing comments—that is, before the public even had a full and fair chance to weigh in on the designation. This curtailed the public's ability to participate in these proceedings and limited the Commission's ability to consider all designation criteria with a fulsome record. Whatever one thinks of the merits of these applications, that action was plainly improper.

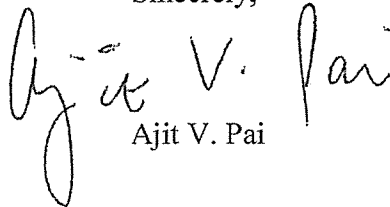
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has long been the case. State regulatory agencies have a substantial legal challenge to the entire process of the FCC designating Lifeline Broadband Providers, arguing that it is unlawful, and the FCC itself recently asked the court for additional time to consider this issue. For instance, Section 214 of the Communications Act explicitly says that states must make designations for purposes of allowing companies to receive Lifeline subsidies. The FCC has repeatedly, and for many years, recognized states' primary role in this area. By preempting the states' role in certification, the federal designations could run afoul of this legal framework. Putting the designations on hold gives the FCC the chance to make sure the process is legally defensible and avoids potentially stranding customers if the courts ultimately deem the process unlawful.

*Lastly*, every dollar that is spent on subsidizing somebody who doesn't need the help by definition does not go to someone who does. That means that the Commission needs to make sure that there are strong safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse before expanding the program to new providers. But our federal safeguards are insufficient: My investigation last year into these matters revealed that providers could indiscriminately override checks that are supposed to prevent wasteful and fraudulent activities. (These checks include common-sense steps like verifying the identity of would-be Lifeline recipients.) From October 2014 until June 2016, wireless resellers had overridden such safeguards 4,291,647 times in total. The investigation also uncovered other loopholes, including one that let a company claim subsidies for approximately 22,000 phantom subscribers each month in the state of Michigan. And the National Verifier—a new database intended to verify eligibility to participate in the Lifeline program—does not currently exist and will not start operating until the end of 2017. Further, it is not scheduled to cover all states until 2019. We need to make sure that safeguards are strong and effective in order to direct subsidies to American consumers who most need the help.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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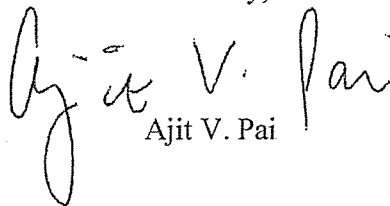
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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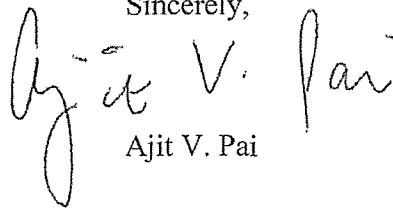
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

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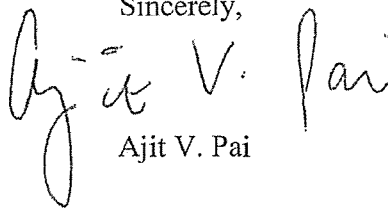
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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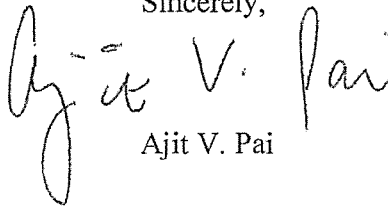


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Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

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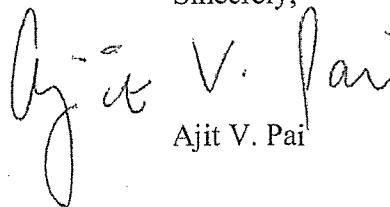
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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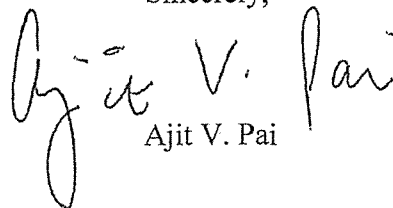
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Rohit Khanna  
U.S. House of Representatives  
513 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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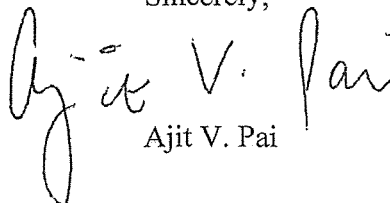
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Hank Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2240 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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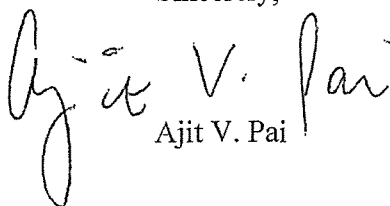
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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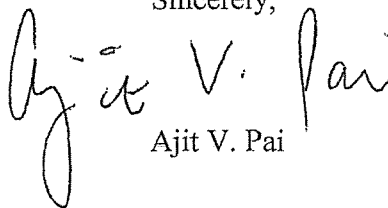


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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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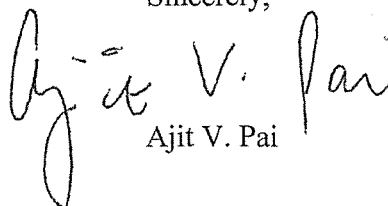
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2404 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

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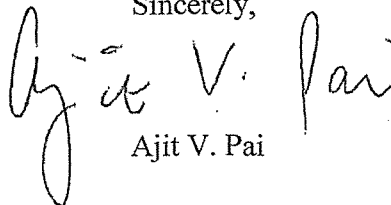
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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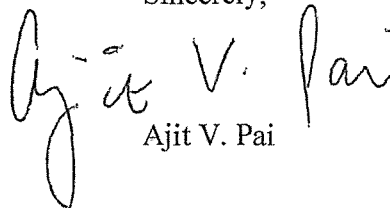
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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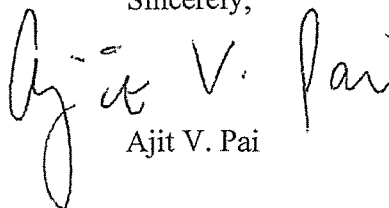
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Alma Adams  
U.S. House of Representatives  
222 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Adams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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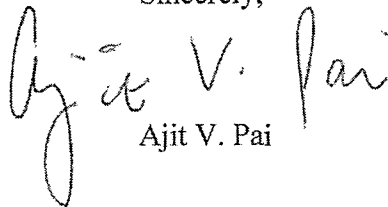
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Joyce Beatty  
U.S. House of Representatives  
133 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Beatty:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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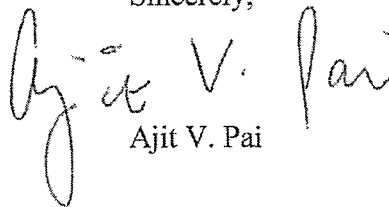
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Don Beyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1119 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Beyer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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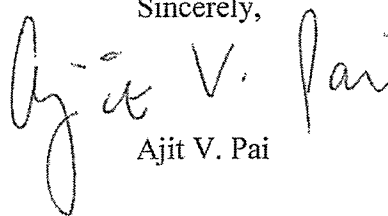
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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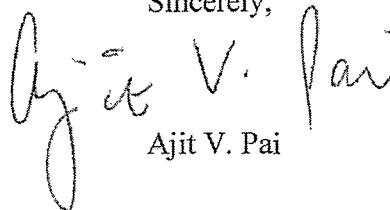
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Judy Chu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2423 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Chu:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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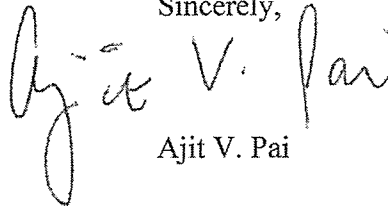
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable David Cicilline  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2244 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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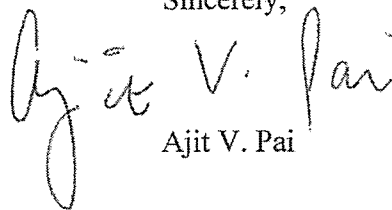
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2335 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

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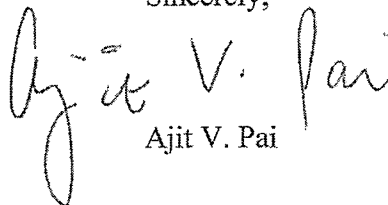
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable John Conyers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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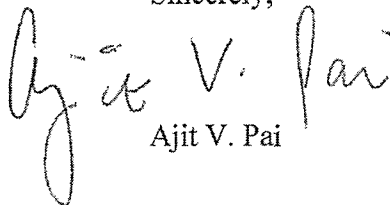
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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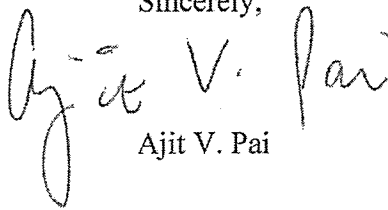
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Esty  
U.S. House of Representatives  
221 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Esty:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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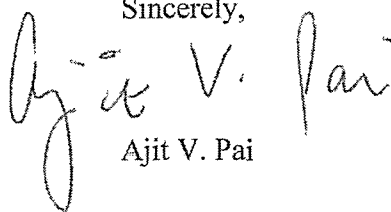
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1105 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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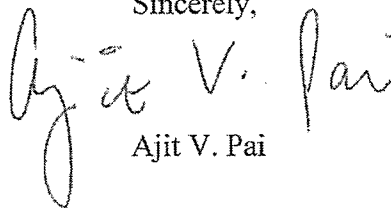
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Hastings:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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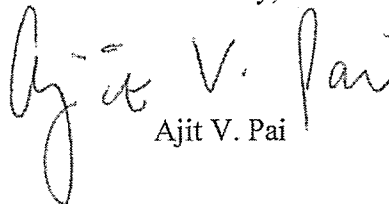
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Jeffries:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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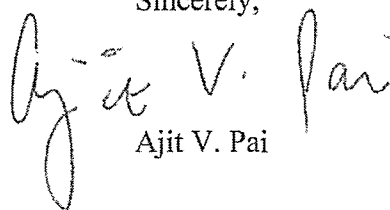
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Robin Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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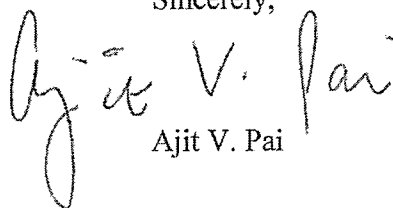
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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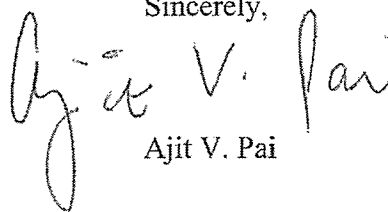
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
438 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman McGovern:

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One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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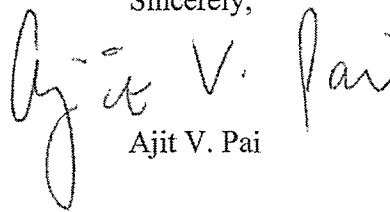
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Rick Nolan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Nolan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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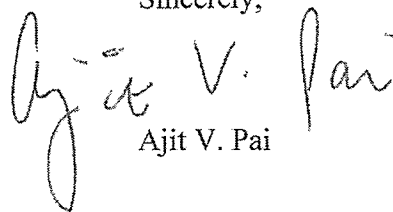
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond  
U.S. House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Richmond:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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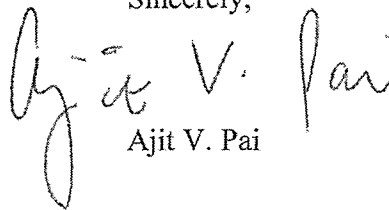
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Ryan:

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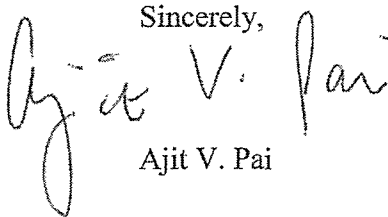
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable David Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
225 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

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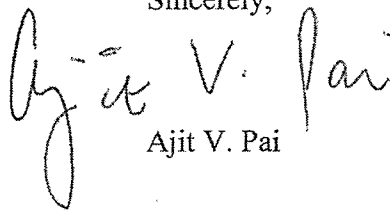
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Sewell:

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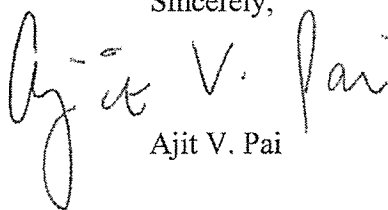
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1530 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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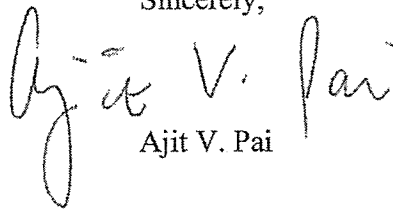
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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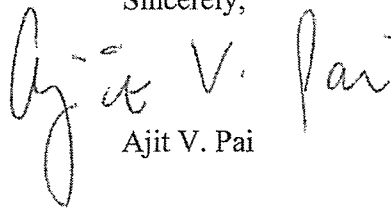
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Dina Titus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Titus:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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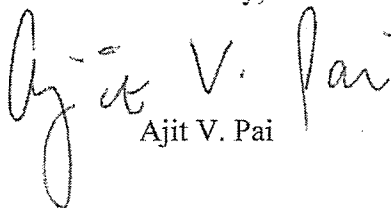
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Marc Veasey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1519 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Veasey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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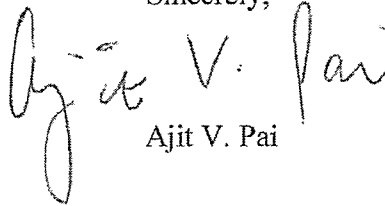
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1535 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:

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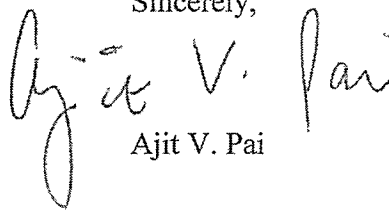
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